

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 5, 2005**  
**(approved 1/9/2006)**

Vice Chair Richard Nass called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:05 p.m. in Florian Hall, Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Representative Richard Brown, Steve Bunker, John Cannon, Robert Gardiner (for Art Cleaves), Chief John Dean, Representative Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier, Alex McPhedran, Geoffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Charles Soltan, Leslie Wiles, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Chief Jeffrey Cammack and Edward Johnston. Members absent were Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant and David Wacker. John Beatty from Maine Fire Training and Education attended as guest of the Fire Commission.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Charlie Soltan, to accept the December 5, 2006 meeting minutes as amended.*** The motion passed unanimously and will be amended with the following two changes.

Page 3, paragraph 2- Chief Dean abstained from voting on the motion.

Page 3, paragraph 5- Massachusetts has only passed the Fire Safe Cigarette law out of legislative committee. The full legislature has not voted on final passage.

**Committee Reports**

The Spring Conference committee reports that the Augusta Civic Center (ACC) is reserved for the 2006 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response. The conference is scheduled for March 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday and Wednesday). The Legislative Reception, previously held at the Ground Round Restaurant and now part of the Spring Conference, is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> at the ACC from 5:00 -8:00pm. Chief Billy Goldfetter is the featured speaker on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Plans include showcasing fire apparatus on the floor of the ACC as well as a variety of displays that feature fire sprinklers and other safety features. Maine Municipal Association (MMA) is drafting the conference brochure. MMA has expressed interest in sharing sponsorship of the Spring Conference with the Fire Commission and has offered to include articles on the conference in their monthly newsletter, The Townsman.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Steve Willis, to ask Maine Municipal Association (MMA) to be a co-sponsor with the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission (Fire Commission) for the 2006 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response (Spring Conference) scheduled for the Augusta Civic Center on March 21 and 22, 2006.*** The motion passed unanimously with one member abstaining.

The Recruitment and Retention committee notified the Fire Commission of a recruitment and retention seminar to be held on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Foster Regional Applied Technology Center. More information will be available at the January meeting.

The Best Practices committee has recommended two candidates for 2005 Best Practice awards. The Best Practice award was established by the Fire Commission to recognize and reward individuals, fire departments, agencies, organizations, communities and others within Maine's fire service system who display the best qualities, show initiative and creativity, and encourage and perform safe practices for themselves and others in Maine. The Best Practices committee recommended Freeport Fire Department citing three programs established to provide increased services as well as public education and awareness to citizens. The three programs included the non-emergency transport program, billing practices and the children's birthday party program. Charlene Belanger, Shannon Moss and Charlie Berg from WCSH-TV (Portland) were cited for their "Get Out Alive" safety and survival news reports that aired on WCSH and WLBZ (Bangor). In addition, thousands of brochures, "Guides to Fire Safety" have been distributed to reinforce the "Get Out Alive" messages.

***A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Alex McPhedran, to accept the recommendation of the Best Practices committee and nominate Freeport Fire Department and WCSH-TV for 2005 Best Practice awards.***

***A motion by Jay Bradshaw, seconded by Jack Berry, to amend the motion to nominate Freeport Fire Department for three separate Best Practice awards- one award for each program.***

The amended motion passed unanimously.

The Bylaws Committee reports they are working on revising the Fire Commission bylaws and expects to have recommendations at the January meeting.

## Old Business

Fire Commission members were updated on the status of carryover bills from the first session of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature. L.D. 10 *“Resolve, To Fund a Study Regarding Health Care for Maine's Firefighters”* and L.D 1508 *“An Act To Regulate Fire Alarm Contractors”* were discussed at the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee work session on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The final committee recommendation on LD 10 was a divided report- the majority voting “ought to pass as amended.” LD 1508 was re-referred to the Business, Research, and Economic Development Committee. LD 1021 *“An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters”* was reported out of the Labor Committee with a majority report of “ought to pass as amended” and 30 days for the interested parties to come up with ideas for funding.

Fire Commission members discussed two options regarding marking structures using truss construction -submitting legislation in 2006 similar to the Bangor ordinance and the current rulemaking process. Members learned that a bill title -*“An Act to Enhance Firefighter Safety”*- has already been submitted if the Fire Commission chooses to go forward with legislation. Members discussed the benefits of each option.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Jethro Pease, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission submits legislation in 2006 regarding the marking of structures using truss construction.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members discussed plans for the Fire Caucus in 2006. Members agreed to host Fire Caucus meetings prior to the regular monthly meetings at the State House. Members agreed about the importance of informing legislators about the accomplishments, concerns and plans of the Fire Commission. Notices will be printed on bright orange paper and distributed when legislators return in January, and will also be posted on the website. Members also discussed other ideas to keep legislators informed including a monthly newsletter.

## New Business

Members were updated on the progress of the Task Force To Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs. The Fire Commission was represented at the initial meeting in Augusta and Maine's fire service and its needs have been represented at the subsequent meetings. Three additional meetings have been scheduled for 2006- Presque Isle, Bangor and York County. Following the York

County meeting, the task force will put together their final report, due at the end of 2006. Prior to the release of the final report, an interim report is expected.

At the November meeting, Fire Commission members agreed in concept to support the Maine Fire Chiefs proposal to set up four PSAP (public safety answering point) dispatch centers in the state. Members learned that this proposal has since been discussed with Governor Baldacci. Members were informed that the State Police are not “on board” with the proposal. Discussion included a major concern regarding interoperability- can we communicate with each other? Members mentioned problems with multiple plans and how to put these plans together. Members were also concerned that the Fire Commission should move forward before communities start spending resources. Members expressed need for the Fire Commission to identify and work on issues to improve Maine’s fire service system. Members discussed the possibility of sponsoring a legislative resolve to ask the Utilities and Energy Committee to study the issue of the suggested plan for 16-24 dispatch centers. Members suggested that if the Fire Commission were to submit legislation in 2006 it would be important to bring interested parties together and improve communication.

***A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by Dick Brown, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission submits a legislative resolve in 2006 for the appropriate legislative committee to identify whether the current plan to establish 16-24 PSAP and E-911 dispatch centers in Maine is the best plan for Maine. The legislative resolve would also request the committee to look at the issues of “interoperability” and how to pull all the multiple plans together.***  
The motion passed unanimously with four members abstaining.

Darrel Fournier summarized his and Chief Cammack’s meeting on November 17, 2006 with Governor Baldacci. The following items were discussed-

- Maine Chiefs’ proposal for four PSAP dispatch centers
- Include the MEMA director in the Governor’s cabinet
- Propose a state fire service coordinator be included at the MEMA
- Healthcare for firefighters and inclusion in Dirigo Health program

Fire Commission members agreed to the importance of meeting with the Governor periodically and keeping him informed of Fire Commission activities and the issues important to the Fire Commission and Maine’s fire service system.

Prior to watching the WCSH-TV series on fire sprinklers and fire safety, Fire Commission members agreed to form a working group on residential sprinklers in Maine. The members include Representative Dick Brown, Chief John Dean, Chief Jethro Pease, Charlie Soltan, Steve Willis, John Cannon and Alex McPhedran.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Vice Chair Richard Nass adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

### FIRE COMMISSION SCHEDULE

Monday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Caucus	State House	12Noon
Monday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	State House	1:00pm
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Monday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	State House	1:00pm
Tuesday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Spring Conference	ACC	All day
Tuesday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Legislative Reception	ACC	5-8:00pm
Wednesday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring Conference	ACC	All day
Monday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fire Caucus	State House	12Noon
Monday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Regular Meeting **	State House	1pm

\*\* Election of Officers

*Please Note: Florian Hall is located at the Central Maine Commerce Center and is the State Fire Marshal's new meeting room.*